

TERRY FONVILLE: Good morning or afternoon. My name is Terry Fonville. I live in Ephraim, Utah. I'm a second generation coal miner. I have been working in the coal industry for ten years and am currently employed by the Canyon Fuel Company at the Sufco Mine. Coal has had a major impact on my life and the lives of my family as my father and my stepmother are both retired coal miners and my four younger brothers are also working in the coal industry. I enjoy my job and appreciate knowing that it makes a difference, not only in the community I live in, but also in the entire state of Utah. Based on the most recent survey approximately 75 percent of the electricity used in the state of Utah is the generated by coal-fired power plants. The coal that I mine is the same coal that those power plants burn. I like knowing that each day I go to work I am making a real contribution to society and helping maintain and improve the quality of life we all enjoy. I am concerned about potential impacts that changing the federal coal lease program could have on my life, my employer, and the communities currently. A large portion of the economy and tax base for the communities and counties in central Utah are connected to the production and support of the coal industry and its employees. If the federal lease program was changed, it could potentially lead to a decrease in coal production, mine closures, loss of jobs, and a major decrease in the tax revenue from which our counties operate. It is my understanding that one of the purposes of this meeting is to ensure that the American taxpayers get a fair return for their resources. Currently the coal industry pays an effective tax rate of approximately 40 percent. Frankly, I do not understand why the coal industry has been targeted and is receiving such scrutiny while other organizations and industries that make little to no contribution to society receive subsidies from the government. And just in closing I would like to encourage these meetings to not be held in Salt Lake City, to be held in those rural communities so that you can see the people that it directly affects. Thank you.